

REMARKS

Claims 2-25 and 27 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-14 and 19-25 have been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 1 and 26 have been canceled. Claim 27 has been added. Claims 2-10 and 15-18 have been amended. Proposed amendments to FIG. 2 of the drawings are being submitted for approval for the addition of a feature of the invention described in the specification but not previously shown.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks appearing below, which Applicant believes place the application in condition for allowance.

Notice of Non-Compliance

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Legal Instruments Examiner has indicated that the Amendment submitted on November 7, 2003, in connection with the present RCE, is non-compliant for 1) failing to mark annotated drawings submitted therewith with the notation "ANNOTATED" and 2) failing to provide the text of all claims, including the withdrawn claims.

Consequently, Applicant submits herewith 1) a corrected annotated drawing with the notation "ANNOTATED" appearing in the upper margin and 2) corrected text of the claims, including the withdrawn claims and identifiers identifying the status of all claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 2-10, 15-18, and 27, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Annotated Drawing (1/2)
Replacement Section "Amendment to the Claims"

BTU266894.1